THE
Great Robbery in the *West*:
OR, THE
INN-KEEPER
TURN'D
HIGHWAYMAN.

A perfect NARRATIVE
of
Tanke[illegible] neer *EXETER*,
Drawing [illegible] two others into his Confederacy,
Lately Robbed the *Exeter*-Carrier of Six hundred pounds in Money, and for the same were Executed at the said City the 13th of this instant *August*, 1678.

With the remarkable Speech of the said Inn-keeper on the Ladder.

To which is added,

Sad News from *Glocester-shire*:

Being a Relation how a Lion at *Winchcomb* devoured its Keeper, and the manner of the said Lions being kill'd for the same.

With Allowance.

LONDON: Printed for *L. G.* 1678.

THE

Great Robbery in the W[illegible]:

OR, THE

[illegible]-KEEPER'S

[illegible]

A perfect

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THE Great Robbery In the WEST, &c.

THE Assizes for the County of *Devon* were held at *Exeter*, the 5th, 6th, &c. of this instant *August*, where among many Malefactors tryed, there happened this remarkable passage; One *John Barnes*, who lately kept the *Black Horse* Inn near *South-gate* in the said City, who had lived there in good repute for many years, incensed by a formal Hypocrisie, he being a great pretender to Religion, and a constant frequenter of Private Meetings, did about a year ago leave that place, and took an Inn in *Collumpton*, a Town about ten Miles distant from *Exeter*, but in the same County; where being more out of the sight of his former Acquaintance, he began to drop that Religious

Mask which before he had worn, and now adventured to ſin bare-fac'd, by ſeveral extravagant courſes running himſelf behind hand as to his Eſtate, and particularly became pretty conſiderably indebted to a Smith in *Collumpton* aforeſaid, to whom having often promiſed payment, and as often failed him, at laſt, about three Months ſince, being again importuned for his Money, this devout Inn-keeper having obſerved him to be a ſtout fellow of good natural Courage, and at preſent mean and neceſſitous, took upon him the Devils Office to tempt him to be a partner with him in his wickedneſs, telling him, *That if he would go with him ſuch a day, and be ſecret, he would not only pay him all his Money, but make him a Man for ever.* In ſhort, the Devil furniſht him with ſuch plauſible Arguments, (as commonly a little Rhetorick ſerves to perſwade us to be wicked) That he not only prevailed with him, but alſo with a Neighbouring Worſted-comber to joyn with him in his evil deſign; and being all three Confederated, he knowing by his old Acquaintance & obſervation, when the *Exeter* Carrier had a great Charge of Money to convey up to *London*, they at a convenient place called *Honiton-Hill* ſet upon his Men, and took from them no leſs than Six Hundred pounds in ready Money. This lufty Booty incouraged our two freſh-men in the Myſtery of Padding, and they began extreamly well to like their new Trade; but *Sweet Meat muſt*

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Save your Sawce; the Carryers Men knowing them by sight, though so discreet not to take notice during the Robbery, which had been but to tempt them to add Murder to Theft, they were all Three in short time after apprehended, and committed to Goal, where by the Inn-keepers Advice, and his fellow Prisoners skill, they got off their Fetters, or so much of them, that they broke the Prison by Night, and got abroad; nor has one of them been since heard of; but the other two not being able absolutely to clear themselves of their Irons, were re-taken the next Morning. He that was re-taken with the Inn-keeper, was always very pensive, bewailing his condition, being the first time, as he protested, that he was ever concerned in such an unjust Action, and blaming him, whose cursed perswasions and insinuations had, contrary to his own inclinations, brought him to it; but the Inn-keeper carried it very confidently till his Tryal, where they were both found Guilty, the Evidence being clear and positive against them. There were many Women of Quality in *Exeter*, that made great Intercession for the said Inn-keeper to get him a Reprieve, not so much for his sake, as out of Charity to his poor innocent Wife and Children, for he was generally reputed a very good Careful, Industrious, and Pious Woman, and hath no less than Nine very hopeful Children; but the nature of his Crime excluded him from Mercy in this World, so that

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and his Comrade were on Tuesday the thirteenth of this instant *August*, conveyed to the usual place of Execution, where there were two that presently suffered, but the Inn-keeper desiring two hours time, the better to prepare himself, had it granted, which he spent in Prayer and godly Conference with several Ministers; then coming upon the Ladder, he made a large Speech, wherein first *He confessed not only the Crime for which at present he suffered, but likewise divers other sins, and particularly lamented that of Hypocrisie, earnestly begging the Spectators Prayers, and exhorting them not to despair in any condition, but trust to the providence of God, rather than to take any indirect course to supply their seeming necessities, acknowledging that his failing herein, had brought him to this untimely end.* And so with all the outward marks of a sincere Penitent, submitted to his Sentence, and was Executed.

I think we may not improperly number High-way-men amongst Beasts of Prey, and therefore conceive it will be no great absurdity, if we adde here the Relation of a sad Accident that happened in *Glocester-shire*. About the beginning of this instant *August*, there came to the Burough of *Winchcomb* an Itinerant Family, consisting of a Man and his Wife, a Boy about a dozen years old, a Lion, and an Ape; which two last Creatures they daily exposed to the view of all such as had

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the Curiosity to spend their pence. But while they remained there, the Boy whose office it was to tend them, going one day to feed them, pull'd by the Lion, and went and gave the Ape his Commons first; which so far affronted the Royal Animal, that in a rage he seized on the Youth with his paws, who shreek'd out in a lamentable manner; but before any could come in to his rescue, the Lion had got his head into his mouth, and bit and crusht him to death; and also had suckt all the blood out of his body. Nor had the Ape, for all their old familiarity, sped much better, if he had not got up by the wall out of his reach. The Coroner having view'd the Lads Corpse, there was an order for the Lion to be kill'd; which was accordingly executed with great solemnity, being shot to death in the presence of many hundreds of people.

In this instance we may see the rage and fury of these Creatures, and that though they seem never so tame and gentle, yet on the least disgust their natural fierceness returns. So it is with men in a natural estate, they may appear much Civiliz'd by Education, but if Grace have not made a through Change in the heart, the smallest occasion or temptation shall revive and discover their lurking Corruptions. And this let us remember, 'tis from the sin of Man that the strongest Beasts which before reverenc'd and obey'd him, do now presume to

seize

FINIS.